

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement is a rib.

Claim 16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement increases in height over the front surface from a peripheral edge of the front surface at the at least one working surface, in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

18. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement runs perpendicular to the at least one working surface.

19. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement is shaped in a linear manner.

20. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement projects from the entire, or substantially entire, front surface.

Claim 21 (canceled).

22. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement is ~~shaped in a beaded manner, as a beam in a linear manner, respectively~~ bead-like or beam-like.

23. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the sonotrode is reinforced in such a way that, with ultrasonic excitation, deflection  $a_z$  of the sonotrode, acts in the direction of its longitudinal axis by deflecting  $a_y$  perpendicular to the working surface, where  $3 \leq a_z / a_y \leq 20$ .

24. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement has a maximal extension  $d$ , over the front surface, of  $3 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 25 \text{ mm}$ .

25. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 24, wherein  $5 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 15 \text{ mm}$ .

26. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement has a maximal extension  $d$ , over the front surface, of 10 mm.

27. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim ~~14~~ 28, wherein the reinforcement is unitary in structure with the sonotrode head.

28. (new) Sonotrode for an ultrasonic welding device and having a longitudinal axis, said sonotrode comprising:

a body portion;

a head portion of rectangular cross-section in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and comprising at least one planar working surface for welding metal which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, a front surface which is substantially perpendicular to the at least one working surface, and a back surface, and

an intermediate tapered portion which joins the back surface to the body portion,

the sonotrode transferring ultrasonic vibrations in the direction of the longitudinal axis,

wherein the front surface comprises at least one reinforcement for reducing deflection of the at least one working surface, the reinforcement exhibiting triangular geometry or curved and protruding geometry in a section of the longitudinal axis, and being shaped symmetrically with respect to a symmetry plane in which the longitudinal axis runs.